

Grades 6 – 8 PWCS Summer Reading Program

{Benton Middle}



The purpose of the PWCS Summer Reading Program is to encourage students to enjoy quality literature and to continue developing their independent reading skills. Student participation in the program is voluntary. Students who choose to participate in the program are required to complete a minimum number of readings over the summer. Assignments must be turned by the end of the first week of school.

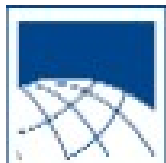
Students in Grades 6 - 8 who participate will complete a list of books read. The documentation is to include the name of the author, the title of the book, and an explanation of the topic or plot of the book, and a parent or guardian statement that the student has completed the reading. For Grades 6 - 8 students who complete the Prince William County Public Library's Summer Reading Program, the Public Library documentation will apply. Students will receive an extra A (100) for each book completed, for a total of two. Completion of the summer reading will be recorded for students by the end of the second week of school.

Lexile Levels

To help in choosing books that can promote reading growth, this year each child's 2009 English SOL score will include a Lexile Level. The Lexile Level is based on a student's SOL score on the English portion of the SOL and approximates his/her reading level. This means a child should be able to read and understand books in a Lexile range of approximately 100 points below to 50 points above the designated score.

Knowing a child's Lexile range can help to locate books that he/she might enjoy reading. Student interest and motivation for reading books that are age appropriate are critical factors to consider as book choices are made. Remember that nothing replaces conversation with the student, his teachers, and librarians in making great choices.

It is important to note that the Lexile measure does not address the content or quality of the book. Many other factors affect the relationship between a reader and a book, including its content, the age and interests of the reader, and the design of the actual book. The Lexile measure is a good starting point in the book-selection process, but parents should always consider these other factors when making a decision about which book to choose.



PWCS Sixth Grade Summer Reading Program

Suggested Reading

The following titles are suggestions for summer reading. Other books selected by the student with guidance from a parent/guardian and/or librarian are also acceptable. Participation in the PWC Public Library Summer Reading Program and its documentation are also acceptable.

Author	Title	Pub. Date	Lexile Level	Annotation
Balliett, Blue	Chasing Vermeer	2004	770 L	When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.
Carbone, Elisa	Blood on the River: James Town 1607	2006	820 L	Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of James Town, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe.
Corbett, Sue	Free Baseball	2006	800 L	Eleven-year-old Felix becomes a bat boy for a minor league baseball team, hoping to someday be like his father, a famous Cuban outfielder.
Creech, Sharon	Granny Torrelli Makes Soup	2003	810 L	With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door.
Henkes, Kevin	Olive's Ocean	2003	680 L	On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.
Holt, Kimberly Willis	Dancing in Cadillac Light	2002	760 L	In 1968, eleven-year-old Jaynell's life in the town of Moon, Texas, is enlivened when her eccentric Grandpap comes to live with her family.
Horowitz, Anthony	Skeleton Key	2002	630L	Fourteen-year-old Alex Rider, from England, has been through a lot in his fourteen years. He has no family. He lives with Jack. His uncle died working with Military Intelligence. He has worked before with MI6-Military Intelligence. Alex now faces a desperate man named General Sarov who has lost his country and his son--and has a nuclear weapon, made out of uranium, and a serious grudge against the free world.

Author	Title	Pub. Date	Lexile Level	Annotation
Konigsburg, E.L.	The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place	2004	840 L	Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her grand uncles have been building in their back yard for over forty years.
Korman, Gordon	No More Dead Dogs	2002	610 L	Football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well.
LaFaye, A.	Worth	2004	830 L	After breaking his leg, eleven-year-old Nate feels useless because he cannot work on the family farm in nineteenth-century Nebraska, so when his father brings home an orphan boy to help with the chores, Nate feels even worse.
Paulsen, Gary	Lawn Boy	2007	780 L	Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business.
Philbrick, Rodman	The Young Man and the Sea	2004	800 L	After his mother's death, twelve-year-old Skiff Beaman decides that it is up to him to earn money to take care of himself and his father, so he undertakes a dangerous trip alone out on the ocean off the coast of Maine to try to catch a huge bluefin tuna.
Riordan, Rick	The Lightning Thief; Percy Jackson and the Olympians: Book One	2005	740 L	Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.
Shafer, Audrey	The Mailbox	2006	790 L	When twelve-year-old Gabe tries to hide his uncle's death from the local authorities, he is not prepared for what happens when this secret is discovered.
Stead, Rebecca	First Light	2007	760 L	When twelve-year-old Peter and his family arrive in Greenland for his father's research, he stumbles upon a secret his mother has been hiding from him all his life, and begins an adventure he never imagines possible.
Weeks, Sarah	So B. It	2004	860 L	After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.
Winerip, Michael	Adam Canfield of the Slash	2005	830 L	While serving as co-editors of their school newspaper, middle-schoolers Adam and Jennifer uncover fraud and corruption in their school and in the city's government.



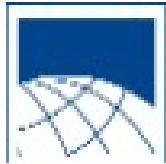
PWCS **Seventh** Grade Summer Reading Program

Suggested Reading

The following titles are suggestions for summer reading. Other books selected by the student with guidance from a parent/guardian and/or librarian are also acceptable. Participation in the PWC Public Library Summer Reading Program and its documentation are also acceptable.

Author	Title	Pub. Date	Lexile Level	Annotation
Feinstein, John	Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery	2005	760 L	After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.
Hostetter, Joyce Moyer	Blue	2006	780 L	Ann Fay Honeycutt becomes the man of the house at age thirteen after her father leaves to fight in World War II, forcing Ann to give up her childhood and tend to her family, but when a polio epidemic strikes, Ann faces the most devastating challenge of her life.
Lisle, Janet Taylor	Black Duck	2006	790 L	Years afterwards, Ruben Hart tells the story of how, in 1929 Newport, Rhode Island, his family and his best friend's family were caught up in the violent competition among groups trying to control the local rum-smuggling trade.
Mass, Wendy	A Mango-Shaped Space	2003	770 L	Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango.
Miller, Sarah	Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller	2007	890 L	At age twenty-one, partially-blind, lonely but spirited Annie Sullivan travels from Massachusetts to Alabama to try and teach six-year-old Helen Keller, deaf and blind since age two, self-discipline and communication skills. Includes historical notes and timeline.
Oppel, Kenneth	Airborn	2004	760 L	Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.

Author	Title	Pub. Date	Lexile Level	Annotation
Peck, Richard	River Between Us	2003	740 L	During the early days of the Civil War, the Pruitt family takes in two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to come north to Illinois.
Peet, Mal	Keeper	2005	780 L	South American journalist Paul Faustino begins his interview with World Cup Soccer star El Gato and learns a fantastic story of a young, lonely boy growing up in the middle of a rain forest who wandered upon a mysterious soccer field and an apparition that appeared to him daily.
Ray, Delia	Ghost Girl: A Blue Ridge Mountain Story	2003	920 L	Eleven-year-old April is delighted when President and Mrs. Hoover build a school near her Madison County, Virginia, home but her family's poverty, grief over the accidental death of her brother, and other problems may mean that April can never learn to read from the wonderful teacher, Miss Vest.
Ryan, Pam Munoz	Becoming Naomi Leon	2004	830 L	When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.
Schmidt, Gary	Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy	2004	1000 L	In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot.
Schmidt, Gary	Wednesday Wars	2007	990 L	During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.
Toksvig, Sandi	Hitler's Canary	2007	810 L	Based upon the true experiences of the author's father, tells the fictional story of ten-year-old Bamse and his Jewish friend, Anton, who participated in the Danish Resistance during World War II.
Warren, Andrea	We Rode the Orphan Trains	2001	940 L	Examines the history of the Children's Aid Society, the organization that sponsored the orphan train program through which an estimated 200,000 orphans found homes in the years between 1854 and 1929, and presents the stories of nine participants in the program.
Whitesel, Cheryl	Blue Fingers: A Ninja's Tale	2004	800 L	Text mainly in English with some Japanese. Having failed apprenticeship as a dye maker, Koji is captured and forced to train as a ninja, where he remains disloyal until he discovers samurai have burned his former village.



PWCS **Eighth** Grade Summer Reading Program

Suggested Reading

The following titles are suggestions for summer reading. Other books selected by the student with guidance from a parent/guardian and/or librarian are also acceptable. Participation in the PWC Public Library Summer Reading Program and its documentation are also acceptable.

Author	Title	Pub. Date	Lexile Level	Annotation
Bell, Hilari	The Last Knight	2007	910 L	In alternate chapters, eighteen-year-old Sir Michael Severson, an anachronistic knight errant, and seventeen-year-old Fisk, his street-wise squire, tell of their noble quest to bring Lady Ceciél to justice while trying to solve her husband's murder.
Bruchac, Joseph	Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two	2005	910 L	After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.
Cushman, Karen	The Loud Silence of Francine Green	2006	750 L	In 1949, thirteen-year-old Francine goes to Catholic school in Los Angeles where she becomes best friends with a girl who questions authority and is frequently punished by the nuns, causing Francine to question her own values.
Draper, Sahron	Copper Sun	2006	820 L	Two fifteen-year-old girls--one a slave and the other an indentured servant--escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.
Haddix, Margaret Peterson	The Uprising	2007	790 L	In 1927, at the urging of twenty-one-year-old Harriet, Mrs. Livingston reluctantly recalls her experiences at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory, including miserable working conditions that led to a strike, then the fire that took the lives of her two best friends, when Harriet, the boss's daughter, was only five years old.
Hale, Shannon	Book of a Thousand Days	2007	850	Fifteen-year-old Dashti, sworn to obey her sixteen-year-old mistress, the Lady Saren, shares Saren's years of punishment locked in a tower, then brings her safely to the lands of her true love, where both must hide who they are as they work as kitchen maids.

Author	Title	Pub. Date	Lexile Level	Annotation
Higgins, F. E.	The Black Book of Secrets	2007	830 L	When Ludlow Fitch runs away from his thieving parents in the City, he meets up with the mysterious Joe Zabbidou, who calls himself a secret pawnbroker, and who takes Ludlow as an apprentice to record the confessions of the townspeople of Pagus Parvus, where resentments are many and trust is scarce.
Lawson, Kirby	Hattie Big Sky	2006	700 L	Sixteen-year-old Hattie Brooks inherits her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana in 1917 and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war in Europe.
Oates, Joyce Carol	Freaky Green Eyes	2003	810 L	Fourteen-year-old Frankie relates the events of the year leading up to her mother's mysterious disappearance and her own struggle to discover and accept the truth about her parents' relationship
Pfeffer, Susan Beth	Life as We Knew It	2006	770 L	Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.
Smelcer, John	The Trap	2006	1100 L	In alternating chapters, seventeen-year-old Johnny Least-Weasel, who is better known for brains than brawn, worries about his missing grandfather, and the grandfather, Albert Least-Weasel, struggles to survive, caught in his own steel trap in the Alaskan winter.
Unger, Zac	Working Fire: The Making of a Fireman	2004	1070 L	Contains the memoirs of Zac Unger's rookie years as a fireman after the Ivy League graduate responded to a help-wanted ad in a bus station in Oakland, California
Westerfeld, Scott	Uglies	2005	770 L	Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.
Zevin, Gabrielle	Elsewhere	2005	720 L	After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."
Zusak, Marcus	The Book Thief	2006	730 L	Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

Prince William County Public Schools



Summer Reading 2009

Documentation Grades 6 - 8

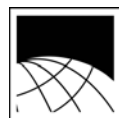
Students in Grades 6 – 8 will receive an extra A (100) for each book completed, for a total of two. Please include the name of the author, the title of the book, publishing information, and an explanation of the general topic or plot of the book along with a parent or guardian signature stating that the student has completed the reading.

The format to use in recording the bibliographic information includes the name of the author, the title of the book, the location and name of the publisher, and date of publication.

Example:

Hovius, Christopher. The Best You Can Be: A Teen's Guide to Fitness and Nutrition. Broomall, PA: Mason Crest Publishers, 2005.

**Please note students may also complete the Prince William County Public Library Teen Wild Reads; the Public Library documentation will apply.



Prince William County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Summer Reading Documentation Form

Grades 5 - 12

Use this form for **EACH** title you read.

Student Name:

Bibliographic Information:

Use MLA format (author's last name, first name. Title. City of publication: Publishing Company, date.)

Example:

Hovius, Christopher. The Best You Can Be: A Teen's Guide to Fitness and Nutrition.
Broomall, PA: Mason Crest Publishers, 2005.

Explanation of the general topic or plot of book:

Parent or Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

